

Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 OMB-01 IO-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

ACDA-19 USIE-00 NEA-10 SY-10 USSS-00 A-01 OPR-02 OC-06

CCO-00 CPR-02 SCA-01 AID-20 PER-05 SCS-03 /195 W

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O R 120940Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3154

INFO USMISSION UN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KAMPALA 3022

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR US UG

SUBJECT: USG-GOU RELATIONS

REF: STATE 202019

1. RE PARA TWO REFTEL, I ALREADY GAVE GENERAL AMIN ASSURANCES REGARDING PROTECTION WHILE HE IS IN NEW YORK, AS REPORTED PARA SEVEN KAMPALA 3014. BELIEVE DEMARCHE TO BOTH MWANGAGUHUNGA AND IBINGIRA BY DEPARTMENT ABOUT OUR EXPECTATION THAT GOU WILL PROVIDE PROTECTION TO AMCITS, BOTH OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE, WOULD BE MOST USEFUL. WILL DO THE SAME WITH ETIANG, WHEN I CAN GET TO HIM.

2. CONCUR ENTIRELY WITH PARA FOUR REFTEL RE ADVICE TO AMCITS TO AVOID UGANDA AT THIS TIME.

3. RE PARA FIVE REFTEL, AT MOMENT BARCAS FAMILY IS ON R&R, TOURING KENYA AND TANZANIA, LATER GOING ON TO GREECE, NOT DUE BACK IN KAMPALA UNTIL ABOUT NOV. 5. BETTS IS IN NAIROBI FOR MEDICAL CONSULTATIONS.

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4. RE PARA THREE REFTTEL, THIS IS OF COURSE A HARD DECISION FOR ME. I ADMIT I AM TEMPERAMENTALLY OPPOSED TO EVACUATIONS EXCEPT IN CASES WHERE MILITARY HOSTILITIES ARE IMMINENT OR IN PROCESS, BECAUSE IN MY EXPERIENCE EVACUATIONS UNDER OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES TEND TO PRECIPITATE THE CONDITIONS THEY ARE INTENDED TO AVOID, E.G. LOCAL PANIC. TO TAKE THE MOST EXTREME CASE, WITHDRAWAL OF ALL OFFICIAL PERSONNEL WOULD BE LIABLE TO SIGNAL TO GENERAL AMIN THAT WE WERE ABOUT TO INTERVENE MILITARILY IN MIDDLE EAST WAR AND WERE PULLING OUT OF HERE BECAUSE HE THREATENED TO IMPRISON US IN THAT EVENTUALITY. THIS COULD THEN PRECIPITATE ACTIONS AGAINST US BEFORE WE HAD COMPLETED WITHDRAWAL, AS WELL AS AGAINST PRIVATE AMCITS REMAINING BEHIND. EVACUATION OF OUR OFFICIAL DEPENDENTS MIGHT SIGNAL THE SAME THING TO AMIN, ALTHOUGH NOT NECESSARILY. MY GUESS, AND IT IS ONLY A GUESS, IS THAT IF AMIN CARRIED OUT HIS THREAT TO IMPRISON "ALL" AMERICANS, IT WOULD APPLY TO MEN ONLY, NOT WOMEN AND CHILDREN, UNLESS IT WERE SOMETHING LIKE "HOUSE ARREST." BUT WHO KNOWS? IF WE WISH TO LEAN ON THE SIDE OF CAUTION, PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BETTER TO SEND OUR OFFICIAL DEPENDENTS TO NAIROBI ON A TEMPORARY BASIS. HOWEVER, WE DON'T WANT TO.

5. I HAVE READ THE ABOVE TO A MEETING OF OUR STAFF, AND THE CONSENSUS IS THAT NO ONE BELIEVES DEPENDENTS SHOULD BE EVACUATED AT THIS TIME, AND NO DEPENDENTS WISH TO BE EVACUATED. NOR DOES ANYONE BELIEVE WE SHOULD WITHDRAW ALL OFFICIAL PERSONNEL AT THIS TIME.

6. ONE AMERICAN MISSIONARY (BAPTIST) HAS CONSULTED ME, SAID HE IS THINKING OF MOVING HIS FAMILY AND FAMILY OF A COLLEAGUE (WOMEN AND SMALL CHILDREN) TO NAIROBI. I SAID I THOUGHT THAT WOULD BE WISE.
KEELEY

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